

COMPLIANCE UPDATE
By Kim Slote, policy analyst

COMMON MANUAL ANNUAL UPDATE

The annual update of the *Common Manual*: Unified Student Loan Policy is now posted on the *Common Manual* website. The 2020 version includes four policy proposal changes prepared by the Policy Development and Maintenance Contractor and approved by the Governing Board. Approved policies included the federal approval to use an Income-Based Repayment Request as a curing instrument; federal changes to the process for the Automatic Discharge for Disabled Veterans; and the addition of the Cancer Treatment Deferment. These policies have also been incorporated into the History of the *Common Manual* in Appendix H. Other updates were made with technical edits, changes to the Guarantor Contact Information and in the Default Aversion Assistance Time Frames chart.

Ascendium Education Group will continue filling the role of the Policy Development and Maintenance Contractor for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The Governing Board monitors the work performed by Ascendium to ensure the *Common Manual* remains the best resource for the most updated information regarding the administration of the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. An updated copy of the *Electronic Common Manual* is also available on the *Common Manual* website. Both versions can be found at www.commonmanual.org. Previous versions of the *Common Manual* are located under the Archives section of the website.

Proposed policy updates and technical edits can be submitted by anyone in the FFELP community. The *Common Manual* Governing Board also welcomes comments on current proposals. The website provides contact information and templates for you to submit policy proposal suggestions and review and comment on proposals under consideration by the Governing Board. Instructions for how to submit comments or to submit policy proposals and technical edits for the *Common Manual* can be found at the following links.

- [Submit Policy Proposals/Tech Edits](#)
- [Submit Comments on Policy Proposals](#)